

## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

### **Proposal by the State of California to Acquire Property in Del Norte County**

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will hold a public hearing on its proposal to acquire 25,500± acres of land in or adjacent to the Mill Creek and Rock Creek drainages of Del Norte County. The land would be an addition to the State Park System. **The hearing will be held at the Crescent Fire Protection Community Center, 255 West Washington Blvd. (at the Northcrest Drive intersection) on Monday, January 7, 2002, from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.** Off-street parking is available, and the hearing room is accessible to people with disabilities.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the hearing is to record comments from local public officials and the general public about the proposal. DPR will then submit a summary of the comments to the State Legislature no later than 30 days prior to acquisition approval. The hearing is required by state law (Pub. Res. Code Sec. 5006.1.) Comments at the hearing will be limited to acquisition issues; if the land is acquired as expected, DPR will invite the public to participate in general planning for this new State Park System property.

**PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:** This proposed acquisition would place the Mill Creek and Rock Creek basins within State Park boundaries. The proposal includes two separate properties: 25,000± acres of Stimson Lumber Company land in the Mill Creek-Rock Creek basins, and 546± acres of Rellim Ridge land owned by Save-the-Redwoods League. The Mill Creek-Rock Creek property is surrounded on three sides by lands of Redwood National Park, Jedediah Smith Redwoods and Del Norte Coast Redwoods state parks, and Six Rivers National Forest. Commercial timberland in the Klamath River basin owned by Simpson Timber Company adjoins the property's south side. The Rellim Ridge property comprises the forested ridge bordering the east side of Elk Valley. This property is surrounded by public parkland on three sides. The two properties subject to this hearing connect at a point near Hamilton Road. Both properties are hilly timberland with coast redwood and Douglas fir the predominant overstory species. Most of the forest has been cut at least once, although a few small groves of old growth remain in the Mill Creek basin. Mill and Rock creeks provide excellent spawning and nursery habitat for chinook, chum and coho salmon, steelhead, and coastal cutthroat trout. Two listed bird species, the marbled murrelet (state endangered, federal threatened) and the northern spotted owl (federal threatened), breed on the Mill Creek-Rock Creek property. Addition of these properties to California State Parks would protect the watersheds and link the Pacific Coast with the interior mountains in an expanse of protected lands. No one resides on either property, but some structures from former logging and milling operations remain on the Mill Creek property. Funding for these acquisitions will come from DPR, Wildlife Conservation Board, Department of Fish and Game, State Coastal Conservancy, and private sources. Save-the-Redwoods League, a private, non-profit organization, has taken the lead in facilitating the acquisitions.

**COMMENTS:** DPR staff will give a background presentation before opening the podium for comments. DPR will also accept written comments for the record if received by January 15, 2002. Please submit written comments at the hearing or send them to Warren Westrup, Chief, Office of Acquisition and Real Property Services, California

Department of Parks and Recreation, 1 Capitol Mall, Suite 500, Sacramento, CA 95814.  
E-mail comments should be sent to Roger Willmarth at [rwillm@parks.ca.gov](mailto:rwillm@parks.ca.gov).

Questions about the hearing may be directed to Roger Willmarth at (916) 445-9099.  
Information about the proposal is also available on the DPR website at [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)  
under News and Announcements/News Releases 2001.

Warren E. Westrup, Chief  
Office of Acquisition and Real Property Services